Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 25, 2007

Faith Sharing
Readings and Questions for the Weekend of December 2

Matthew 24:37-44

First Sunday of Advent

Look Into Your Life

Question for Children: How can you open your heart to be more giving?

Question for Youth: How can you work to establish God's kingdom of justice and peace?

Question for Adults: How will my actions and choices help me "stay awake"?

Monday, November 26
Deuteronomy 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4
8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy
Intention: For STM students on the NET retreat
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – NET Retreat
7:00 p.m. – Eucharistic Ministers Training

Tuesday, November 27
Deuteronomy 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11
No Daily Liturgy – Fr. Mark's Day Off
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
2:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Blood Drive
7:00 p.m. – Boy Scouts
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Women's Encounter

Wednesday, November 28
Deuteronomy 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19
5:30 p.m. – Daily Liturgy
Intention: For the health of Willis Kopren
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Food Pantry

Thursday, November 29
Deuteronomy 6:12-28; Luke 21:20-28
8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy
Intention: That all will embrace the waiting spirit of Advent
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours

Friday, November 30
Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22
No Daily Liturgy
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Office Hours
6:30 p.m. – Cub Scouts

Saturday, December 1
Deuteronomy 7:15-27; Luke 21:34-36
8:00 a.m. – Daily Liturgy
Intention: In thanksgiving for the celebration of this past liturgical year
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Food Pantry
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – SHARE Registration
3:30 p.m. – Reconciliation

First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44
5:00 p.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: For the repose of James Schable

Ministry Schedule
Bread Baker: Irene Daschel
Altar Servers: Jessica Schacher, Matthew & Christopher Van Asma
Blood: Roberta Balzer, Jerry Silbernagel, Tom & Betsy Van Asma
Body: Charlie Desmond
Lectors: Christopher Jensen, Greg Sass
Sacristans: Joe & Linda Schacher
Ushers: Jayme & Reggie Hunt
Choir: Family Choir

Sunday, December 2
First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44
8:00 a.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: OLBH Community

Ministry Schedule
Altar Servers: Dane, Hannah & Liam Schroeder
Blood: Kathy Amiotte, Dean Antonsen, Frank Boner, Dennis Fischer
Body: Mary Antonsen
Lectors: Kathy Amiotte, Jean Schubauer
Sacristans: Frank & Donna Boner
Ushers: Kevin Rohrbach, Duane Schubauer
Choir: Regina's Minstrels

9:15 a.m. – Reconciliation Parent Meeting

10:30 a.m. – Liturgy of the Eucharist
Intention: For all souls in Purgatory

Ministry Schedule
Altar Servers: Mary Pulaski, Whitney Werdel, Tyler Corbine
Blood: Gary Erickson, Rose Williamson, Curt Lauinger, Jan Schurman
Body: Barb Erickson
Lectors: Mary Coffin, Curt Lauinger
Sacristans: Gary & Barb Erickson
Ushers: Jim Hoag, Dorothy Tinnell
Choir: Folk Group

7:00 p.m. – Taize Prayer

Sparks from Fr. Mark

Last week after the Liturgy, we handed out our first home packet for "Gatherings of Grace." It included a liturgical calendar, two articles: one on the liturgical year, and the other on the Gospel of Matthew; a pamphlet on Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the registration form for Gatherings of Grace. There is a table set up at our gathering area where you may place your registration forms for our first Gatherings of Grace, which will be held Wednesday, December 12, on the Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe.

On December 2 we will begin our new liturgical year with the season of Advent. Because we will be reading from the Gospel of Matthew throughout this coming liturgical year, the Sparks column will include an *Introduction to the Lectionary's Proclamation of the Gospel of Matthew* over the next few weeks.

Part One

Each of the four gospels has a distinctive presentation of Jesus. This reflects, in part, the pastoral concern of each evangelist, who shapes the basic story of Jesus in order to address the particular needs of his community. This means that each gospel does far more than record elements of the biography or history of Jesus of Nazareth. Each gospel exhorts readers and hearers to believe in Jesus as Lord and to become his disciples. In this way, the purpose of the gospels and the purpose of the liturgy intersect: both Word and Sacrament invite believers to an encounter with Jesus that calls for a response of worship and discipleship.

Matthew begins his gospel with a bold and ambiguous statement about Jesus' identity. Jesus is the Messiah, the son of David and the son of Abraham (1:1). But Jesus is, most importantly, the son of God (8:29; 14:33). This is made clear already in the annunciation of Jesus' birth to Joseph, who is told that the child would be called Emmanuel, "God with us" (1:23). The birth of Jesus elicits two different reactions. On the one hand, civil and religious authorities (King Herod, the scribes and chief priests) plot the destruction of the child, while on the other hand foreigners (the magi) seek him out to worship him. In this way, the infancy stories foreshadow reactions Jesus will experience as an adult: rejection/acceptance, hostility/worship.

We come to Matthew's gospel already knowing some of his most familiar stories. It is Matthew who informs us of Jesus' special relationship with Peter, to whom Jesus entrusts the keys of the kingdom (16:18), as well as Jesus' concern for founding the church (16:18; 18:15-21). It is Matthew who first gives us the Beatitudes (5:1-12) and the Lord's Prayer (6:9-13). Matthew records for us some of the best-known parables: the separation of the sheep from the goats, based on the "care for the least of my brethren" (25:10-13), the wise and foolish virgins (25:10-13), and the vineyard workers hired at the eleventh hour (20:1-16). All of these stories contribute to a distinctive image of Jesus, developed by Matthew the teacher.

Blessings! Fr. Mark

Source: *Living Liturgy: Spirituality, Celebration, and Catechesis for Sunday and Solemnities, 2008*. (Liturgical Press: Collegeville MN, 2008)

Prayer List
Names will remain on the prayer list for one month. Please contact the office if continued prayers are needed.
Improved Health: Joe Creek, Helen Barber, Grant Coffin, Mary Kay Young, Ron & Donna Eliason, Sharon Long, Cliff Meyer, Don & Dorothy Norman, Don Konechne, Doris Hume, Joshua Weaver, Dorothy Roseland, Jim Raba, Missy Jorgensen, Don Thrall, Gertrude Bessie, George Senn, Karen Weyrich
Repose: Darvin Weiger, Steven Melvin, Phillip Clarke, Don Barbour, Faith Albrecht, Thelma Sorenson , Mike Cariveau, James Schable

Stewardship November 10 & 11

Loose	$1,255.24
Envelopes	$2,171.00
Votive	$5.00
Student	$54.81
Building Fund	$100.00
Mass Intentions	$20.00
Other	$778.13
Total	$4,384.18

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers

There will be training on Monday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions call Walt or Judy Wilson at 787-4673.

Middle School & High School Registration

If you have not completed registration forms for your middle or high school youth, please do so before the next event. Forms are in the gathering area. Contact Teresa Thompson at teresa@olbh.org or 787-5168 if you have any questions. **Middle School meets December 5 at 7:00 p.m., and High School meets December 19 at 7:00 p.m.**

Attention Parents of College Students

OLBH Youth and Young Adult Ministry would like to send your college student(s) a packet for Advent. Please call or email names and addresses to Teresa Thompson at 787-5168 or teresa@olbh.org. Thank you!

Women's Encounter

We will meet Tuesday, November 27, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Danielle Rose, a counselor at Catholic Social Services, will speak on Historical Trauma. This topic is of particular interest because of its social justice relevance. This topic should aid us to understand the unique behavioral situations in the Native American people. All are invited—men and women! If you have any questions, please call Kathy Van Asma at 787-6218.

Bars and Cookies Needed!

Our local Catholic schools will be holding a NET retreat here on Thursday, December 6. We are looking for people to donate bars and cookies. If you would like to do some baking for this event please contact Betsy at 787-5168 or at betsy@olbh.org.

Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is now up in the gathering area! Take a tag and buy a gift for someone in need. Please place gifts under the tree no later than Sunday, December 9, with tags attached, but **unwrapped**. All gifts will stay in the Piedmont and Black Hawk area. If you know of someone in our area who is in need of Christmas gifts, please call Judy at 716-4647 or Dorothy at 787-4509.

OLBH Library Update

From Mary the Librarian

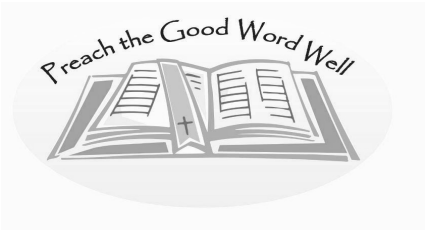
We have several good Advent resources in our library. One new book, *Advent and Christmas with the Saints*, creatively incorporates words of wisdom from holy people to provide a spiritual focus for each day. Another book, *Come to Christmas*, describes the customs of the Advent season. If your children enjoy working with crafts, there are some new titles to provide suggestions.

If you'd like to check out these or any other books, just sign your name on the book card and leave it in the basket in the corner of the room.

The materials ordered through the Catholic Family Book club are in! I've packaged them, and they're ready for pickup in a box by Betsy's desk.

Quilt Raffle & Fall Festival Results

The winner of our Quilt Raffle is **Cecilia Keller**! Many thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets to help the Peace and Justice Ministry. We also want to thank all of you who volunteered at the Fall Festival to make it a success! We served 278 people and raised $2,646. Please remember to pick up your dishes in the kitchen. The deadline for pick up is November 30.



Parishioners will be surveyed at weekend masses in early December as part of the diocesan initiative, **To Preach the Good Word Well**, which will include a number of activities for clergy and laity. The purpose of the survey is to help us reflect on our understanding of the Word of God proclaimed and preached at Sunday mass. The results of the survey will be made available in January. Thank you for participating.

Christmas Gifts Needed For Sturgis Senior Care Center

Clothing, socks, undershirts, pajamas, slippers, hair bands and barrettes, jewelry, body wash, body spray, lotion, shampoo, knick knacks, Christmas cards and wrapping paper. All must be new or like new. A collection box is in the gathering area. If you have any questions, call Kathy Van Asma at 787-6218.

Knights of Columbus Essay Contest

How to Help Others See God in Their Lives

Entries must be turned in by January 31. More information is posted in the gathering area.

Advent Retreat

December 1, Benedict Hall, St. Martin's Monastery, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Your offering of $10 includes refreshments. Take time to joyfully meditate on Christ's coming to save the world. To register, contact Sister Marmion Howe at 343-2688.

Dinner Down Under!

Come join us for the Newman Center's Dinner Down Under and game day, Sunday December 9 at the Cathedral of our Lady of Perpetual Help, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will help offset the cost for students to attend a college FOCUS retreat in January, and for Angela Setera, who will be spending a year in Australia with the NET team. If you have any questions, contact nancy@Cathedralolph.org.

Playground Monitor Needed

St. Elizabeth Seton School is in need of a playground monitor 11:00-1:00 and 2:45-3:15 Monday through Friday. Applications are available in the school office.

Angels Bazaar

The 24th annual Cathedral Altar Society Angels Bazaar will be held Saturday, December 1 at the Cathedral. Stock up on crafts, gifts, ornaments, baked and canned goods, candles, cinnamon and caramel rolls. Join us for coffee and hot cider in the morning, and lunch from 10:30 to 2:00 p.m.

For the Ride Home

By Ted Bergh

Scripture

•You shall shepherd my people Israel (Samuel 5:2).
•I rejoiced because they said, "We will go up to the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1).
•For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile all things for him, making peace by the blood of his cross (Colossians 1:19-20).
•Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom (Luke 23:40-42).

Reflection

•Why is a shepherd a good image of King David and of Jesus?
•How are you like the criminal asking Jesus to save you?
•How is Jesus like an alternative king and different from an earthly ruler in the first century or now?
•What would you say to Jesus as he hangs on the cross near death?

"Oh God," I said and that was all. But what are the prayers of the whole universe more than expressions of that one cry? It is not what God can give us, but God that we want. (George MacDonald) [1]

[1] Pratt, Lonnie, and Homan, Fr. Daniel, *Benedict's Way: An Ancient Monks's Insights for a Balanced Life*, (Loyola Press: Chicago, 2000) 40.